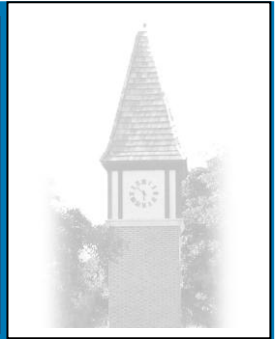


Neighborhood Watch Newsletter



Volume 17 Issue 2

March – April 2009

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Crime Prevention Starts With You!

Information Courtesy the National Crime Prevention Council

Let's talk about crime.

Whether it's a wallet stolen, a mailbox vandalized, a convenience store robbed, or a pedestrian mugged, crime touches and hurts everyone.

Crime has two victims. One is the person who suffers loss or injury. The other is the community. When crimes occur, neighbors retreat behind locked doors, merchants abandon businesses and streets become empty at night. Fear creates isolation and that increases the neighborhood's vulnerability to crime.

Crime does not have to be a fact of life. Millions of citizens in thousands of neighborhoods across the country have proved that building a sense of community and taking commonsense precautions can cut crime and counter fear. It takes time, energy and commitment, but the results are worth it!

Crime rates continue to fall nationwide. That drop can be attributed to a number of factors including the widespread adoption of prevention and community policing. Law enforcement officers have become problem solvers in the community. Increased concern and involvement by citizens alike however is perhaps the most significant contributor to the drop in crime.

Whenever crime occurs, do not cower in fear. Stand up for what you know is right. Report **all** crime when it occurs and be alert of what is going on around you. You know what is normal for your neighborhood. You know who belongs there and who does not. You need to go beyond watching out. You need to help out, too. Crime Prevention is not a flashy gimmick or trendy fad. The idea of citizens working together with law enforcement to do something about crime has steadily gained momentum. Protect yourself and your loved ones, watch out for your neighbors, and work to make your community a better place in which to live. 🐞

Westminster Police Department

8200 Westminster Blvd.
Westminster, CA 92683
Emergencies Call 911

Business Line:
714-898-3315

Dispatch Ext: 326
Traffic Division Ext. 339
Records Bureau Ext. 371
Business Hours:
Sunday- Saturday
7:00a.m. – 7:00p.m.

Website:

[www.westminster-
ca.gov/depts/police](http://www.westminster-ca.gov/depts/police)

Telemarketing Fraud

Information Courtesy the Federal Bureau of Investigations

When you send money to people you do not know personally or give personal or financial information to unknown callers, you increase your chances of becoming a victim of telemarketing fraud.

WARNING SIGNS –

WHAT A CALLER MAY TELL YOU...

- "You must act 'now' or the offer won't be good."
- "You've won a 'free' gift, vacation, or prize." But you have to pay for "postage and handling" or other charges.
- "You must send money, give a credit card or bank account number, or have a check picked up by courier." You may hear this before you have had a chance to consider the offer carefully.
- "You don't need to check out the company with anyone." The callers say you do not need to speak to anyone including your family, lawyer, accountant, local Better Business Bureau, or consumer protection agency.
- "You don't need any written information about their company or their references."
- "You can't afford to miss this 'high-profit, no-risk' offer."

If you hear these or similar "lines" from a telephone salesperson, just say "no thank you," and hang up the phone.

Some Tips to Avoid Telemarketing Fraud

It's very difficult to get your money back if you've been cheated over the phone. Before you buy anything by telephone, remember:

- Do not buy from an unfamiliar company. Legitimate businesses understand that you want more information about their company and are happy to comply.
- Always ask for and wait until you receive written material about any offer or

charity. If you get brochures about costly investments, ask someone whose financial advice you trust to review them. Beware; unfortunately not everything written down is true.

- Always check out unfamiliar companies with your local consumer protection agency, Better Business Bureau, state Attorney General, the National Fraud Information Center, or other watchdog groups. Obtain a salesperson's name, business identity, telephone number, street address, mailing address, and business license number before you transact business. Some con artists give out false names, telephone numbers, addresses, and business license numbers. Verify the accuracy of these items.
- Before you give money to a charity or make an investment, find out what percentage of the money is paid in commissions and what percentage actually goes to the charity or investment.
- Before you send money, ask yourself a simple question. "What guarantee do I really have that this solicitor will use my money in the manner we agreed upon?"
- You must not be asked to pay in advance for services. Pay services only after they are delivered.
- Never send money or give out personal information such as credit card numbers and expiration dates, bank account numbers, dates of birth, or social security numbers to unfamiliar companies or unknown persons.
- Always take your time making a decision. Legitimate companies won't pressure you to make a snap decision.
- Don't pay for a "free prize." If a caller tells you the payment is for taxes, he or she is violating federal law.
- It's never rude to wait and think about an offer. Be sure to talk over big investments offered by telephone salespeople with a trusted friend, family member, or financial advisor. 📞

When To Use 9-1-1

Use 9-1-1 to save a life, report a fire, or to stop or report a crime. 9-1-1 is the right number to call in an emergency when a prompt response is needed. There could be a fight or an assault occurring right now, a fire burning, or a medical problem occurring now which could be life threatening. Don't call 9-1-1 for non-emergencies such as lost pets, noisy neighbors, or other minor complaints. If you must talk to police or a fire official about such matters, use the 7 digit nonemergency number. When you call 9-1-1, **DO NOT HANG UP** (even if you accidentally misdialed). Stay on the line and wait for assistance. Emergency services are sent to your house to check on you if you hang up, which can result in delays to true emergencies.

HOW TO MAKE A 9-1-1 CALL

Call from a safe place. Get away from sources of danger (fire, gas leak, etc). Call from a neighbor's house, cellular phone or a pay phone—the call is free. Stay calm and speak clearly and slowly to make sure you get the help you need. The person who answers your 9-1-1 call is a trained dispatcher. They will ask questions to determine what kind of help you need - Fire, Police, or Medical. Be prepared to state the nature of the emergency, and please answer all the questions. **Answering questions does not delay response.** As they ask their questions, keep your answers as short and direct as possible.

REMINDER: 9-1-1 calls made from cellular phones are routed to California Highway Patrol (CHP). Remain on the line and they will transfer your call to local 9-1-1 operators.

Did you know?

Assembly Bill 1976 went into effect January 1, 2009. This bill strengthens the current punishments for illegal 911 calls through: creating a minimal \$50 fine for the second offense; the third offense would be a \$100 fine; the fourth and any subsequent offenses would be a \$250 fine. (First offense-officers must issue a written warning.) 📞

You Can Increase Your Personal Safety

Basic Crime Prevention Information

Without a doubt, prevention is your best protection against crime. Many crimes can be prevented. **Trust your instincts.** If you suspect something is wrong or a situation seems dangerous, you may be right! Don't dismiss suspicious people, cars, or situations. Report them to the police immediately. **Avoid dangerous situations.** Don't invite trouble. Use your best judgment about where you go and what you do. **Work with the police and courts.** People working together can solve many crimes. 📞

City of Westminster Department Directory

Animal Control:
714-898-3315 Ext. 365

Chamber of Commerce:
714-898-9648

City Hall:
714-898-3311

Code Enforcement:
714-893-3311

Consumer Affairs:
714-952-5210

Fair Housing Department:
714-569-0823

Family Resource Center:
714-903-1331

Graffiti Hotline:
714-895-2876

Health Department:
714-677-3600

West Justice Center:
714-896-7111

Recruitment:
714-898-3315 Ext. 395

Westminster Senior Center:
714-895-2878

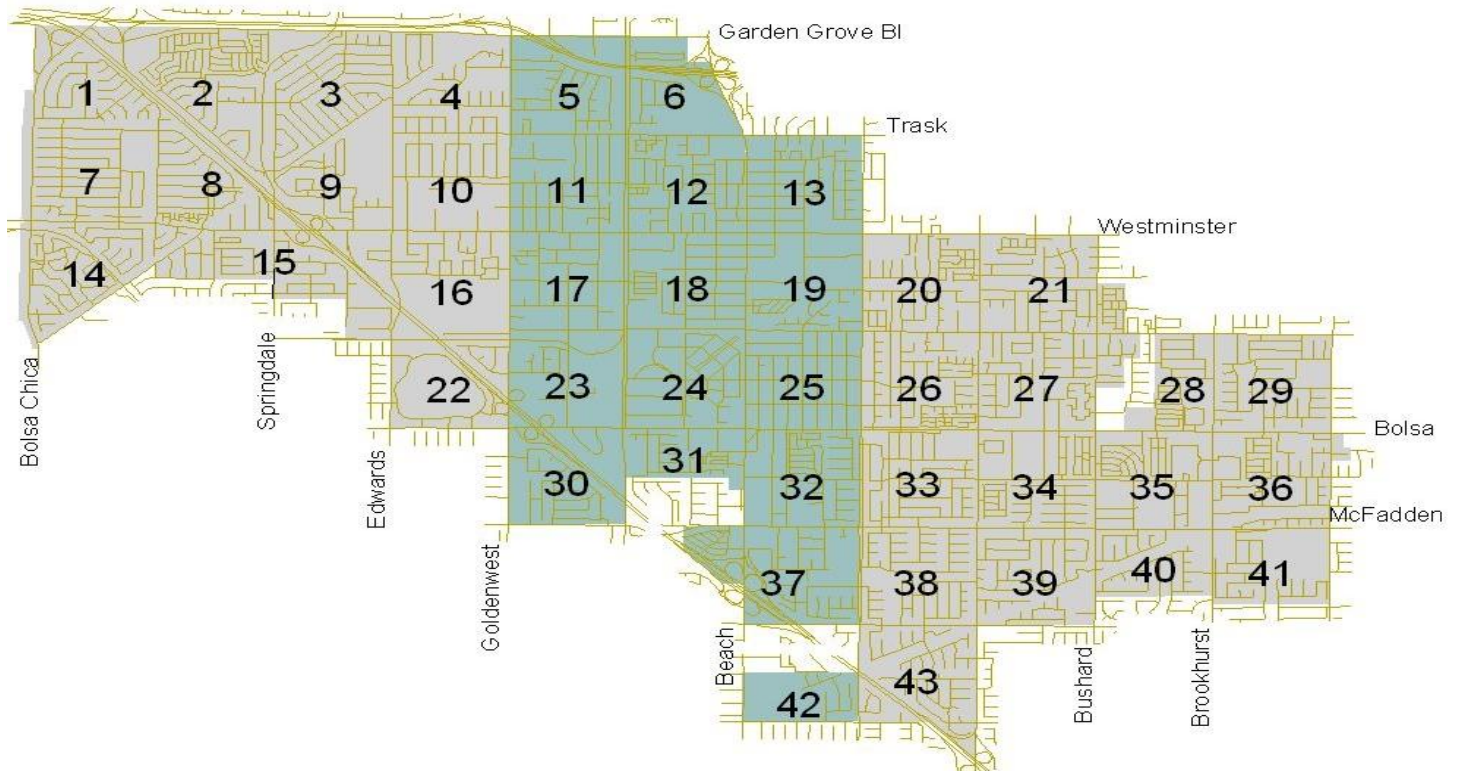
Vector Control:
714-971-2421

REMINDER:

All issues of the
Neighborhood Watch
Newsletter are available
online at:

<http://www.westminster-ca.gov/depts/police/community>

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER



RESIDENTIAL BURGLARIES

A R E A	JAN	FEB	YTD	LAST YEAR	A R E A	JAN	FEB	YTD	LAST YEAR	A R E A	JAN	FEB	YTD	LAST YEAR
1	0	1	1	0	16	0	0	0	1	31	0	0	0	1
2	0	0	0	1	17	0	0	0	0	32	0	0	0	0
3	0	0	0	3	18	1	0	1	0	33	0	2	2	2
4	0	2	2	0	19	0	0	0	3	34	0	0	0	3
5	0	0	0	0	20	1	0	1	5	35	0	0	0	3
6	0	0	0	0	21	0	0	0	7	36	0	0	0	6
7	0	1	1	1	22	0	0	0	0	37	1	0	1	1
8	1	0	1	0	23	0	0	0	0	38	0	0	0	1
9	0	0	0	2	24	0	0	0	0	39	1	0	1	0
10	1	1	2	0	25	0	0	0	0	40	1	0	1	1
11	0	1	1	3	26	0	0	0	0	41	0	1	1	0
12	0	0	0	1	27	0	0	0	0	42	0	0	0	0
13	0	0	0	1	28	0	0	0	1	43	0	0	0	2
14	2	0	2	3	29	0	0	0	0					
15	0	0	0	2	30	0	0	0	1					

	JAN	FEB	YTD
TOTAL BURGLARIES	9	9	18

This newsletter is published bimonthly by the Administrative Services Bureau